

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228416

STADIS////////////////////

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINGSTON 3724 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 06 SEP 76.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3724

STADIS

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JM, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ON JAMAICAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ON THE MORNING OF
SEPTEMBER 3 AT WHICH TIME WE DISCUSSED A VARIETY OF MATTERS.
I FOUND THE PRIME MINISTER'S MOOD SERIOUS AND HE WAS RESERVED
AT THE OUTSET -- REFLECTING THE AFTER EFFECTS OF HIS RECENT
BOUT OF FLU. THE ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT AT MY REQUEST WAS GORDON
WELLS, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

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2. I USED OUR MEETING TO DESCRIBE TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE INCREASINGLY DEEP INTEREST IN THE CARIBBEAN WHICH I HAD OBSERVED DURING MY RECENT VISITS TO WASHINGTON. I STRESSED THAT IT IS OUR DESIRE TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE AREAS, BUT WENT ON TO SAY THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH SOME AMONG OUR NEIGHBORS OFFEN MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO DO SO. NOWHERE IS THIS MORE TRUE THAN IN THE CASE OF JAMAICA.

3. I THEN SAID THAT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THERE IS A LIVELY INTEREST IN JAMAICA AND HER PROBLEM . I DESCRIBED IN BRIEF COMPASS OUR EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO PL-480 REQUEST, BUT ADDING THAT CONGRESS WISHES SUCH ASSISTANCE TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD THE "POOREST OF THE POOR" AND THAT OTHER DEPARTMENTS - SUCH AS TREASURY -- QUESTION WISDOM OF ASSISTING COUNTRIES WHERE THERE ARE UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS. IN CASE OF JAMAICA, TREASURY'S PROBLEM LIES WITH BAUXITE AGREEMENTS. IT NOT ENOUGH FOR US TO ASSERT THAT FINAL AGREEMENTS ARE NEAR; SIGNED DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED. (PRIME MINISTER INTERJECTED THAT HE IS ANXIOUS TO PUSH AGREEMENTS TO CONCLUSION. HIS REMARKS ARE REPORTED IN SEPTEL.)

4. I THEN NOTED DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY ACCUSATIONS THAT USG IS SEEKING TO "DESTABILIZE" JAMAICA. MY CHIEF EXAMPLE WAS SPEECH DELIVERED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON AT COLOMBO ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME MINISTER (SEE KINGSTON 3501). WHEN MANLEY SOUGHT TO ARGUE THAT THE REMARKS REGARDING DESTABILIZATION HAD NO SPECIFIC TARGET, I NOTED THAT THE REFERENCES TO GUATEMALA, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND CHILE BELIED THIS, AND THEN ASKED WHO HE DEEMED INCLUDED AMONG THE "HOSTILE GOVERNMENTS". AT THIS POINT, MALEY SAID HE DID NOT ENTIRELY AGREE WITH THOMPSON'S REMARKS, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "POSTURING IN A HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE".

5. MANLEY THEN ASSERTED THAT HE HIMSELF HAS LEVELLED NO CRITICISM AT THE UNITED STATES IN THE RECENT PAST, AND HAS NO INTENTION OF SO DOING. I THEN ASKED HIM IF HE BELIEVED THAT THE STATE

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DEPARTMENT HAD URGED DESTABILIZATION OF JAMAICA. HE REPLIED, "NO, I DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING IS BEING DONE NOW. I DID ONCE, BUT NOT NOW". AFTER MENTIONING HIS CONCERN THAT OTHER AGENCIES OF THE USG MIGHT BE LESS AMENABLE TO CONTROL HE SAID, "THAT CHAPTER IS NOW CLOSED," BUT ADDED THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR HAD BEGUN WITH THE SECRETARY'S FEEDING OF VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS TO SCOTTY RESTON OF NEW YORK

TIMES EARLIER THIS YEAR.

6. I EXPRESSED MY CONCERN THAT THE U.S. "DESTABLIZATION" OF JAMAICA AND GUAYANA HAD BECOME ACCEPTED LEFTIST ROTE BY REASON OF EMPHASIS AT NAM AND PROPAGANDA SUPPORT IN PRAVDA AND BY THE CUBANS, WE HAD NOT HEARD THE END OF IT. MANLEY SAID THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO SUPPORT THIS LINE FURTHER HIMSELF AND THOUGHT IT WOULD DIE OUT.

7. COMMENT: I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT WE HAVE INDEED OPENED A NEW CHAPTER IN OUR RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA. HOWEVER, WE HAVE GONE THROUGH RELATIVELY SMOOTH PERIODS BEFORE ONLY TO ENCOUNTER YET ANOTHER ROUGH PATCH. NEVERTHELESS, THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON THE MOVEMENT TOWARD AGREEMENTS WITH THE BAUXITE COMPANIES IN A GOOD AUGURY. PERHAPS HE HAS NEED OF BETTER RELATIONS WITH US AS ELECTIONS APPROACH. TWO LITMUS TESTS COMING UP WILL BE HIS BEHAVIOR (AND THAT OF OTHER PARTY LEADERS) AT THE PNP ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MID-SEPTEMBER, AND THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION'S BEHAVIOR AT THE FORTHCOMING UNGA. WILL, FOR EXAMPLE, GUYANESE AND JAMAICANS PURSUE THE DESTABILIZATION THEME IN NEW YORK?

8. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AS APPROPRIATE TO OTHER ARA/CAR POSTS. GERARD UNQUOTE: ROBINSON

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